

Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club WIRELESS



FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL

In case you haven't heard, propagation on the HF bands is better than it has been in years. All bands, including 10 meters are open during the day. Well, I guess I should omit 160, 75 and 40 meters, but at night these bands are doing great.

So far, I have worked the Christmas Island group, T32C, on five bands and three modes, even CW. How I did that is a topic for another discussion.

Technicians have phone and CW privileges on ten meters. You will be able to work the JA's using a dipole and a 100 watt transceiver.

The program for the next meeting will be a demonstration of Travel Plus for Repeaters. This software package allows you to plan a trip and create a file of all the repeaters along your route. If you have the necessary connections, you can then upload that to your mobile vhf/uhf radio. So if you do any traveling, this program can save a lot of time.

Congratulations to Frank, KG6N, for his new hex beam antenna. (See photo page 5)

We need to nominate club officers for next year, so if you would like to take a turn, let me know or come to the next meeting.

As I write this, I am also preparing for this year's Pacificon to be held in Santa Clara. Looking forward to seeing a lot of VOMARC members there.

November's meeting will be on the 16th. New officers will be elected, so put this on your calendar.

That's about it. Remember, its all about turning on your radio.

—73 Jim K6UUW

YOUNG EAGLES REPORT



Sunday, Oct. 10, Dave, KD6FIL, Sam, W5LTP, Frank, KG6N, Eileen, KG6QNT, and I put W6AJF on the air at Sonoma Skypark as part of our outreach effort to the community. It was also an opportunity to try out the new Yaesu FT-950 club radio.

Band conditions were very good. We gave some points to the Pa QSO party and worked the T32 DXpedition on Christmas Island on two bands using CW and phone.

Anyone interested in participating, show up on Nov. 13 at 8:30 am for the next and last one of the year.

—Submitted by Jim K6UUW

Meeting Minutes for August 17

The meeting started at 7:30PM with a fox hunt pt on by the radio officer, WB6TMH.

The meeting was formally called to order by the Honorable President, Jim Hill, K6UUW at 8:23 PM on August 17, 2011.

Introductions There were 13 members in attendance. Members in attendance were, K6KLL, N7PIB, WB6TMH, W1EJ, KF6FZM, NJ6E, KG6N, KJ6DPZ, KE6HID, KA2QOQ, K6UUW, N6KM and KD6FIL.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes, as published in the newsletter, were approved without corrections.

Vice President: Fox Hunting is hard.

Secretary: We are working on insurance for the hamfest.

Treasurer: There is \$4022 in the bank. Less a couple of checks written at the meeting for VOMARC Insurance and the N6P event

Radio Officer: WB6TMH, discussed the Fox Hunt and next time we will do it in the afternoon when there is more time to do training.

ACS: ACS ID Cards are coming soon. You need to hang on to your expired card until the new ones are issued. It is a different process if you have lost your card. ACS sent out a notice of the legal requirements of participating in the ACS drills.

Website: We need to take off the ham class that was planned for 2010.

Old Business

W5LTP has the VOMARC and ACS nets for September.

N6P was a success. We did not break anything. The antennas need work. We have a hard time getting out and new antenna locations may help this. KG6N said that we may need to a field trip to scout antenna locations for next year. We talked to over 100 visitors to the light house. It was foggy cold and windy at the lighthouse. Just like you would expect for a lighthouse. Next year we are going to try and have more people participate.

VOMARC members did a demonstration of ham radio at the Sonoma Skypark for the Young Eagles event (the second Sunday of every month). It is a great opportunity for new hams to operate with someone there to answer questions. The next time is September 11th.

The September meeting will be a BBQ at N6KM's house on September 21 at 5 PM. We need a head count and a list of what you can bring. VOMARC will provide the burgers and dogs, but we are asking people to bring appetizers, side dishes and desserts.

New Radio Discussion: Last month we had a motion to sell the IC718 and get a new radio in the \$1000 price range. K6UUW, K6KLL, N7PIB and KD6FIL went to HRO and looked and tested a few radios. The FT450D looked like a winner. We discussed it further at this meeting and decided the FT450D was still a very basic radio and it would be better to upgrade to the next level which would be a FT950. The FT950 is owned by a former club member and comes highly recommended. This will increase the cost of the radio about \$400. A motion was made, seconded and approved by the members to purchase an FT950 after the IC718 is sold. The IC718 is currently listed on EBay and the bid is at \$299.50. The reserve was set at \$300. The bid will close on Saturday, August 20 at noonish.

New Business

There are a number of public service events coming up. Wine to Waves, September 17 and 18, and the Gran Fondo on October 1. If you are interested in volunteering please contact K6XLT@sonic.net.

There is a tour of the new Leo Laporte studio in Petaluma on August 20 and 21. Leo has a great program called Ham Nation. Check out the program at: <http://twit.tv/hn13>

October is Officer Nominations time.

Upcoming meeting topics are Old gear show and tell. If you have some have some W6AJF gear, bring it in and show it off. Another demonstration will be operating the FT950.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PMish
—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

FCC CRACKS DOWN.

In March 2009, the FCC issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL) in the amount of \$17,000 to David Edward Perka, KA3PRB, of Lewisburg, Tennessee. The FCC alleges that Perka "willfully and repeatedly violat[ed] section 301 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, by operating without a license in the Maritime Radio Service and willfully violat[ed] Section 333 of the Act by maliciously interfering with the United States Coast Guard on the International Distress, Safety and Calling Channel in Annapolis, Maryland." Perka, who admitted to the findings, requested a reduction in the forfeiture amount, based on his inability to pay, but in a Forfeiture Order released by the FCC on September 21, 2011, the Commission refused to lower the amount.

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SCOUTS TAKE TO THE AIRWAVES FOR THEIR 54th JAMBOREE

Each year, more than 500,000 Scouts in more than 100 countries take to the airwaves on the third full weekend in October -- and this year will be no different. The Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) is a Scouting and Amateur Radio event sponsored by the World Scout Bureau of the World Organization of the Scout Movement. JOTA is an annual event where Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides from all over the world speak to each other via Amateur Radio. Since 1958 -- when the first Jamboree on the Air was held -- millions of Scouts have met through this event. Many contacts made during JOTA have resulted in pen pals and links between Scout troops that have lasted many years. The radio stations are operated by radio amateurs, and many Scouts and leaders hold licenses and have their own stations. The majority of JOTA Scouts participate through

stations operated by local radio clubs and individual hams. (from ARRL newsletter)

CAL QSO PARTY

The California QSO party was on for the weekend of Oct. 1,2.

This is the only time whey hams in California are the "rare DX".

Since I helped, along with Dave, on the Grand Fondo on Saturday, I only had a few hours on Sunday to participate.

It turned out as advertised. I had quite a pile when I got on. In about two hours of operating, I had over 200 QSO's.

Here is what members of the Redwood Empire DX Assoc. accomplished.

Call	County	CW	PHONE
K6JS	Plumas	341	948
N6YEU	Lassen	507	554
NI6T	Tehama	1468	2043
K6MM	San Fran	550	550
KE6UAR	Del Norte	323	55
K6RIM	Marin	1008	69
N6IE	Sonoma	687	952
W6OSP	Napa	921	56
K3FIV	Mendo	443	327
K6CTA	Marin	608	55
K6ANP	Sonoma	393	300
N6ZFO	Lake	385	246

Maybe this will be the year that REDEXA finally beats the Mother Lode DX club.

—Jim K6UUW

Bitten by the Bug

By Craig Miller, W8CR

Ahhhhh, just put the kid on the bus, and the wife is on her way to the salt mine. Now, I have 45 minutes to see if I can scare up a quick QSO.

40 meters sounds pretty quiet this morning--no ear splitting static crashes. The usual morning CW junkies must have already headed off to work or out mowing the grass. I spin the dial down to 7.023 to see if any speedsters are still on. Some days, I can even keep up with them at 30-35 wpm. It must be later than I thought, though. Those guys are gone too.

Tuning back up to 7.030, I hear a couple of guys wrapping up a chat at about 20 wpm: "FB

FRED MUST QRT TO WALK THE DOG 73 ES CUL..." (translation: "Good copy, Fred, but I really gotta go to the bathroom! Best regards and see you later.").

I spin the dial up to 7.032, and don't hear any beeps or boops. I guess here is where I'll cast my line. "QRL?" (translation: "Anybody out there working that last rare DX station for your DXCC that I can't hear?"). Nuttin' heard. I'll QRL one more time before "CQ CQ CQ DE W8CR W8CR K". Silence. Again "CQ CQ...". Just the hiss out of the speaker. Well maybe this ain't gonna happen today. One more time...

Bam – I got one! He's got a nice strong signal too. But, wait. What the ...? What is he sending me? "DAAAAHHHHHH DIT DIT DIT DIT DAAAAHHHHHH DAAAAHHHHHH DIT DITDITDIT DIT DIT DITDITDITDAAAAHHHHHH." NUTS! He's using a bug, a mechanical key dating back to the old railroad days. It's an ingenious mechanism for sending high speed code, but it takes a lot of practice to send clear, copyable code. I can barely make out my callsign let alone his – this isn't gonna be fun.

I have two options:

1. Don't reply and pretend I didn't hear him. He's really strong, though, and most likely I am, too. He knows I can hear him. Plus, that's the coward's way out.

2. Answer him and tough it out.

I answer him. We exchange the usual stuff. My RST is 579, his name is Bill, and he lives in Niassa Fihls, errrrr, Niagara Falls, NY. "Niagara Falls, eh?" We've been wanting to visit there before our kid gets too old to even want to be seen with his parents, let alone ride in a car for 6 hours to look at water flowing over rocks. Plus, that's where Nikola Tesla built his hydro power station that illuminated Buffalo over a hundred years ago. I'm hooked now – lotsa questions for him.

As our conversation progresses, his dot-to-dash ratio varies all over the map, but I slowly get used his style of CW. It's like listening to British shows on PBS. At first, they're totally

unintelligible, but over time, your brain figures it out.

I have to give him credit, he's using something that is a passing skill. I have a bug I bought years ago, but could never master it well enough for me to feel comfortable subjecting others to the noise.

Well, that 45 minutes passed fast. Time to get to work. I promised I would look him up whenever we get to Niagara. I guess it wasn't a total nightmare working him and his bug, after all. Kinda like talking to somebody with a thick accent.

After all, he is a New Yorker.

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Craig Miller, W8CR, began his ham career in 1974 as WN8TLC. He lives in Ostrander, Ohio. He enjoys HF CW ragchewing with a little bit of DXing and contesting tossed in. He is an active officer in the Delaware County (Ohio) ARES and a member of the DELARA (www.k8es.org) radio club.

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Frank's New Antenna

**2011 ACS
Net Control Assignments**

	Name	Call
JANUARY	EILEEN	KG6QNT
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH		
APRIL	MARTY	KI6RTP
MAY		
JUNE	GEORGE	K6ITE
JULY	CRAIG	KF6QZP
AUGUST	KEN	N6KM
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WD6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

**2011 VOMARC
Net Control Assignments**

	Name	Call
JANUARY	ED	WIEJ
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH	JOAN	W6WXU
APRIL	DAVE	KG6FIL
MAY		
JUNE		
JULY		
AUGUST	KEN	N6KM
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR
DECEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH

**THE VOMARC WIRELESS
VOLUME 15 EDITION 9**

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon
Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF
Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jim Hill, K6UUW – President, Training Officer

Ed Jacobson W1EJ – Vice-President,

Dave Dammuller KD6FIL – Secretary

Desmond Kelly, KI6DPZ – Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – ACS Unit Leader

Joel Nadler, NN6J – VE Liaison

Jim Hill, K6UUW – Elmer Coordinator

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Webmeistress, Editor

*Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after
benefits of membership in VOMARC—S. Marler.*

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of
each month at McDougal Hall at the Sonoma
Developmental Center, Eldridge or the Sonoma Fire
Station on 2nd St West. Meetings start at 19:30 local
(7:30 P.M.).

WEB PAGE: <http://www.vomarc.org/>

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30
P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350
repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on
the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station
is off the air until further notice.

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of
each month at Palms Grill (formerly Issa's) Restaurant,
18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at
09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

c/o Sonoma Police Department
175 First Street West
Sonoma, CA 95476

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175 First Street West
Sonoma, CA 95476

**THE NEXT MEETING IS WED, OCTOBER 17, 2011 at the City of Sonoma EOC, 175 1st St West
in Sonoma, at 7:30 PM
SEE YOU THERE.**

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP

VOMARC 2011 Membership Dues: \$15/year individual; \$5/year family member.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.
QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC: \$ _____ Complimentary with Class--Date: _____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen

Dues may be mailed to Desmond KI6DZP, 416 Claudia Dr, Sonoma, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting.
Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**.